

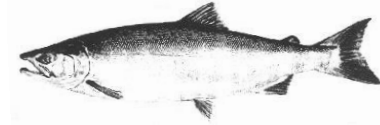
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Date Issued: 6/28/2016

2016 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 45

Districts 1 and 2 Commercial Fishing Schedules

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

As of June 27, the sonar project near Pilot Station has estimated a cumulative passage of approximately 134,000 Chinook salmon. This cumulative passage estimate is well above average for this date, but below average for years with early run timing. The cumulative passage of summer chum salmon is approximately 1,077,000 fish and indicates an available surplus well above escapement and subsistence needs in accordance with the summer chum salmon management plan.

The first three pulses of Chinook salmon have migrated out of Districts 1 and 2. Though summer chum salmon catches have dropped off at the LTYF project, groups of summer chum salmon are expected to move into the river over the next few days. A large group of chum detected at LTYF on June 25 should be present in District 2 beginning June 28. Therefore, commercial gillnet opportunity is being provided in Districts 1 and 2 to target summer chum salmon.

In District 1, gillnets are restricted to 5.5-inch or smaller mesh not exceeding 30 meshes in depth and the fishing area is limited to the South Mouth only. This restricted gear and reduced commercial area is to allow for summer chum salmon commercial opportunity while also minimizing the incidental harvest of large Chinook salmon and avoiding areas where Chinook salmon are concentrated. Commercial fishermen should stand by for short-notice announcements for future periods once catch data from these commercial periods are analyzed.

Any Chinook salmon caught in gillnet gear may be retained for subsistence use. Chinook salmon retained for subsistence use during the commercial gillnet opening must be recorded on a fish ticket as "kept but not sold".

In District 1 and 2, subsistence salmon fishing is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week but will be closed six hours before, during, and six hours after commercial periods.

Management Actions

District 1 Commercial Gillnet (South Mouth Only):

Commercial salmon fishing in District 1 will be open for two 6-hour periods with 5.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets not exceeding 30 meshes deep to target summer chum salmon:

- 6:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. midnight Wednesday, June 29
- 6:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. midnight Thursday, June 30

Based on current assessment information, the area open to commercial fishing is being limited to a portion of District 1 in which the incidental harvest rate of Chinook salmon is anticipated to be low. The portion open to commercial fishing will be the South Mouth area down river of the lower point of Head of Passes (also known as 10-Mile Island) continuing on to the Black River. The area open to commercial fishing includes Black River, Kwiguk Pass, and coastal waters from the Black River to one mile north of Kwiguk Pass. Areas closed to commercial fishing include: Middle and North Mouths up to Pt. Romanof and passes such as Aproka and Bugomowik, north of the mainstem South Mouth.

District 2 Commercial Gillnet:

Commercial salmon fishing in District 2 will be open for one 4-hour period with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets to target summer chum salmon:

- 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 29

All Chinook salmon caught in gillnets may be retained for subsistence use and must be recorded on a fish ticket as “kept but not sold”. All Chinook salmon retained for subsistence use during the commercial gillnet openings must be marked by removing both tips of the tail fin. The tips must be removed before concealing the Chinook salmon from plain view or before transferring the salmon from the fishing site.

The subsistence and commercial fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at **(866) 479-7387** (toll free outside of Fairbanks); in Fairbanks, call **(907) 459-7387**.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADF&G office in Emmonak at (907) 949-1320 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Emmonak at (907) 949-1798.

This is an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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